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CONFIDENTIALMarch 15th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3917 BCOORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM BY THE FRENCH DELEGATIONGLOBAL IMPORT CERTIFICATES

With reference both to the discussions held during the May 1959 meeting of the Sub-Committee on Export Controls and to the Italian Delegate's statement (COCOM Doc. 3727), the French Delegation wish to make known their views on the procedure for global import certificates.

The French Delegation think that the terms "global" certificates and "unrestricted" certificates should first be defined.

The French Government understand global certificates to mean certificates covering a global, but stated, quantity of goods of an individual description, liable to be supplied in multiple consignments within a certain period, as against the regular import certificate covering one specific order.

On the other hand, the French authorities believe that the word "unrestricted" refers to certificates specifying only the exact nature of the goods with no mention of quantity or value and whose period of validity would possibly be limited.

As regards application, the French authorities have long been accepting "global" certificates furnished in support of export licences and are also willing to accept "unrestricted" certificates, provided in this latter instance that the importing country is aware of the possible consequences of non-evaluation of a maximum quantity.

The French authorities have never issued "unrestricted" certificates, and do not think it desirable to do so. They are, however, ready to issue "global" certificates corresponding to the above definition in certain cases.

These lastmentioned certificates are established for goods not subject to import restrictions. They state the global quantities and value of goods which may be imported within a period varying with the validity of the import document. This period does not in general exceed six months except, however, for certain categories of products requiring a longer production period.

As to goods under quantitative control as a result of French foreign trade regulations, import certificates can only be issued for the quantities and value authorised for import.

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